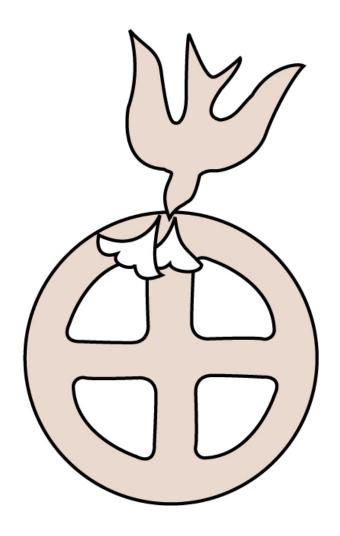
# St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



OCTOBER 1, 2023
Live Streamed on YouTube

10:30AM

#### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION \*

What happens when you are spiritually prepared and desire to receive communion, but can't? Such a case is referenced by a paragraph in the 1979 Prayer Book:

If a person desires to receive the Sacrament, but, by reason of extreme sickness or physical disability, is unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine, the Celebrant is to assure that person that all the benefits of Communion are received, even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth.

A nation-wide shut down due to a pandemic fits, I'm sure we'll agree, with the words "by any other impediment" listed in the first Prayer Book. Our Lord will not cut us off from his grace. If we truly desire him, he will come to us, even if we cannot receive the Sacraments he has instituted so that we may receive his grace. This is not a new idea. St Thomas Aquinas, writing nearly 800 years ago, said:

before receiving a sacrament, the reality of the sacrament can be had through the very desire of receiving the sacrament. Accordingly, before actual reception of this sacrament, a man can obtain salvation through the desire of receiving it, just as he can before Baptism through the desire of Baptism, as stated above (Summa, III.73.iii)

Desiring to receive the spiritual grace of the Most Holy Eucharist (and being prevented from receiving it sacramentally) is known as Spiritual Communion. It is so very important to note that this gift is given to us when we cannot, for very good reason, be present at mass.

When you are watching a live-stream or recording of our liturgies, any of the following prayers may be said at the moment of communion when you would normally leave your pew and make your journey to the altar:

In Union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of Your Church where Your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer You praise and thanksgiving. I believe that You are present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to You, and embrace You with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from You. Let me live and die in Your love. Amen.

OR

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot physically consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire, and be renewed for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. (from Enriching Our Worship 2)

OR

"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire you with all my heart.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already in my heart
and unite myself to you completely.

Please do not let me ever by separated from you." (by St. Alphonsus Liguori)

\*Except where otherwise indicated, the whole of this article (with only very little amendment) is taken from the website of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where it was posted on April 5, 2020. No author was specified.

# THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The 18th Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 21

# THE WORD OF GOD

#### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Prelude Voluntary IV John Stanley (1'25")

**Processional Hymn 111 LEVAS** 

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON



**OPENING ACCLAMATION** 

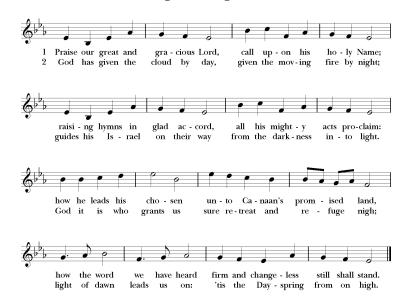
BCP 351

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY BCP 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

# Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

1 Hear my teaching, O my / people; \*

incline your ears to the words of / my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a / parable; \*

I will declare the mysteries of ancient / times.



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy

3 That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have / told us, \*

we will not hide from / their children.

- 4 We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the / Lord, \* and the wonderful works he has / done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their / forefathers, \* in the land of Egypt, in the field / of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them / pass through; \*
- he made the waters stand up like / walls.

14 He led them with a cloud by / day, \*

and all the night through with a / glow of fire.

15 He split the hard rocks in the / wilderness \*

and gave them drink as from the great / deep.

16 He brought streams out of the / cliff, \*

and the waters gushed out like / rivers.

THE SECOND READING Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

# Sequence Hymn 554

'Tis the gift to be simple

SIMPLE GIFTS



THE GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew. People: Glory to you, O Christ.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** 

THE NICENE CREED BCP 358

(said by all)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**BCP 360** 

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*Celebrant*: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, Form IV

BCP 388

The congregational response to "Lord, in your mercy" is "hear our prayer."

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

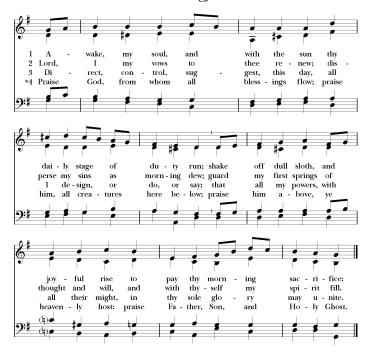
*Celebrant*: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

#### THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem Be Still Mary McDonald

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am with you. Be still and know that I will comfort you when you come to Me in your hour of need. Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am here for you; and I will wipe your tears; you will be renewed. Come unto Me, My child, be still, and know that I will give you rest. I am present in your pain and I always will remain your Comforter and Friend. My peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. Peace. Be still and know that I am God. Be still



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

**BCP 361** 

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

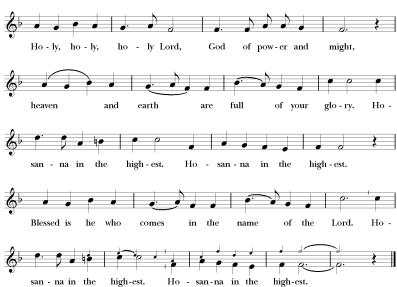
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Here a Proper Preface is said)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

# \* Sanctus S-125

# Holy, holy, holy Lord

Richard Proulx



Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

#### The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

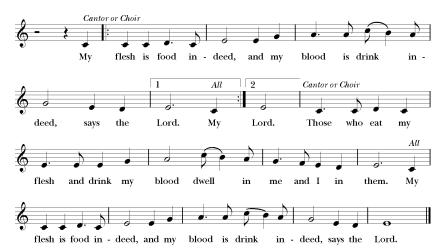
BCP 364

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### \*Fraction Anthem S-169

My flesh is food indeed

Ray W. Urwin





#### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Enriching Our Worship 2

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot physically consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire, and be renewed for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

#### POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### THE BLESSING

# **Closing Hymn 348**

Lord, we have come at your own invitation

O QUANTA QUALIA



THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Allegro No. 2 from 'Magnificat' Alexandre Guilmant

(1'02")

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The altar flowers are dedicated by Randall & Carolyn Abney, to the honor and glory of God, and in thanksgiving for their 34th wedding anniversary.

Music Minutiae....

The composer for our communion hymn "O Jesus, I have promised" (#665), John Ernest Bode, was another of those 19th century English clergymen who wrote poetry on the side - and lots of it! In 1860 he published a collection of poems, each one inspired by the particular Gospel reading designated for every Sunday and festival day of the church year. The hymn text we sing today was written for the service at which three of his children were confirmed together. He called it "Hymn for the Newly Confirmed".

The Melody to which Mr. Bode's words are set is an old Finnish folk tune of uncertain origin. It was first published in 1909 in Finland's Evangelical Lutheran Church Chorale Book. The editors of the hymnal that introduced the melody to English congregations in 1927 named the tune 'Nyland' after one of the provinces in Finland. However, the Finnish experts contend that the name ought to be 'Kourtane' instead, that being the province where the song originated they say. And, that is indeed the name Lutherians give it in their hymnal to this day.

# Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Carol Whitson, Peter Rice, Jean Estes, Maggie Darby Raymond, Elmer Clark, Nancy Carter, Randy Harrelson, Teri Bouknecht, Kara Russe, Jamaica Miller, Ellen Kappel, Susan Dunn & family, David Kirshenblatt, Cayden Mitchell, Bill Alworth, Stephen Morris, Barbara Johnson, Sue Bush, Janice Rusk, Jennifer Polzin, Susan Williams, Pat MacKinnon, Shelby Welch, Don Downie, Olivia Carlisle, Angie Defalco, Ken Packer, Michael, Rachel, Christy, Rosina, Eliot, Patricia, Ben, Mobley, Scott, and Lynn.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthday this week: Brad Hankins, Nikki Mathis, Cleo Weinmeister, Mark Tavernier, Sarah Gordon, Mia Camoston, Pace Barkdoll, Jeff Scarbrough, and Kendall Kookogey; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Kevin & Angela Greene, and Randall & Carolyn Abney.

The people listed here are prayed for by name at each Sunday service. To request prayer for yourself or someone else, please call the office (706-546-7553). If at the beginning of the next month the person needs to remain on the list, please call and give the office an update.

### **NEXT WEEK**

# BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

The Blessing of the Animals will take place this year at 4PM on Sunday, October 8 on the patio between Parish Hall and the Christian Ed building. Please have your furry, feathered, or scaley friends properly crated or leashed.

# **COMING UP ...**

# **CHURCH PICNIC | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15**

Who doesn't love a picnic - especially an ant-free picnic? Mark your calendars for October 15 and we'll picnic in the parish hall right after the 10:30 service. We'll welcome newcomers and not-so-newcomers (there was this pandemic thing...), we'll celebrate the school year being in full swing, we'll sing praise to autumnal weather, but mostly we'll eat, and talk, and greet, and meet, and do we really need an excuse for that? Bring a side dish or a dessert if you'd like, and the Parish Life Committee will provide the mains and drinks. See you there!

#### **ONGOING**

# **CLOTHING DRIVE | OCT. 1 - NOV. 3**

Every Fall, St. Gregory's sponsors a parish-wide clothes drive to support our neighbor, Barnett Shoals Elementary School. This year, we are seeking donations, in the following prioritized order, to replenish the school's clothes closet:

- boys' pants/sweatpants/shorts -all sizes, youth XS-XL
- girls' pants/shorts/leggings -all sizes, youth XS-XL
- boys' and girls' underwear -all sizes, XS- XL
- boys' and girls' shirts -all sizes, XS-XL (can include t-shirts in multi-packs, not necessarily gendered)

  Boys' and girls' pants may include new and gently-used, clean items.

Donations will be collected from **Sunday, October 1 through Friday, November 3,** in the boxes located in the lobby of the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Eilers, <u>eilersgail@gmail.com</u>, or Jane Sheridan, <u>isheridan@friendlycity.net</u>. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

#### **HOLY EUCHARIST & HEALING SERVICE | WEDNESDAYS**

Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6PM in the sanctuary for eucharist and prayers for healing.

# **BLINDSPOT GROUP | THURSDAYS**

Our 20s and 30s group meets on the last Thursday of each month (Oct. 26 this month!) at 6:30PM for dinner and a small group study (usually off-site of the church). We also meet at least once a month for game nights, dinner and drinks, movie nights, and more. Newcomers are always welcome! Contact Wade McGlamery, 770-624-4837 for more information.

#### **NOTES**

#### **NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED**

The nursery is in need of two (2) more weekly staff members. We need two responsible teenagers or kind adults that would be interested in taking the Safeguarding God's Children certification program, doing the background check and are current with their CPR & First Aid. The hours are 9am - 12pm each Sunday. We could also have volunteers rotating if they take the training and pass the background check.

#### **MOVIE NIGHT**

Unfortunately, we will be discontinuing parish movie night for the time being. If anybody has interest in taking this on going forward, please reach out to Mother Nikki.

#### THE LITTLE RED WAGON

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank needs paper bags, canned tuna, canned tomatoes, and cooked cereals (i.e. grits, oatmeal)! Please help us fill the Little Red Wagon!

#### Those Who Serve

Vestry: John Bray Reader: Lynn Hanna (8AM); June Ball (10:30AM)

EMs: Lin Kromhout & June Ball

Crucifers: Torches: Mariel & Julia Sanford

Flowers: Lane Norton

Altar Guild: Jennifer Caplinger, Mary Ann Caplinger, Susanne Burton Ushers: Gail Eilers Counters: Mark Reinberger & Jane Hudson

Livestream: Anthony Barkdoll

# Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Nikki Mathis Rector rector@stgregoryathens.org | 706-546-7553 x2

The Rev. Doug Adkins Associate Rector & Director of Children's Ministries jdouglasadkins@gmail.com | 706-474-4784

The Rev. Christina Dondero Deacon christinadondero@gmail.com | 404-918-7248

Kendall M. Kookogey Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper office@stgregoryathens.org | 706-546-7553 x1

Jonathan Klein Music Director/Organist jonathanfk@gmail.com | 706-296-8102

Joseph Napoli Choir Director awn1984@att.net | 706-546-6638

Wade McGlamery Youth Minister wwmcglamery@gmail.com | 770-624-4837

Jude Red-Bear Nursery Director juderedbear@icloud.com | 706-614-0008

Mark Hein Buildings/Grounds *markehein@gmail.com* | 706-549-3239

Anthony Barkdoll Livestream Coordinator anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com

Terri Tillman WebMaster/Social Media ttillman@gmail.com

Danielle Vogt Coffee Host danielle1784@gmail.com

Peachy Green Clean Co-op Sexton

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Jude Red Bear, Danielle Lyle, Megan Reuter, Allie Weaver

Vestry Members: Kate Avinger, John Barrett; John Bray; Stacie Court; Gail Eilers; Anna Hiers; LeeAnne Krause, Sr. Warden; Lane Norton, Maggie Reinberger, Mark Richardson, Jr. Warden; Shelby Welch; Anna Thornton, Clerk; Les House, Treasurer

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: John Bray johnpatrickbray@gmail.com